

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed May 12, 2011 ("Office Action"). Claims 1, 4, 6-14, 17, 19-27, 30-34, and 36-44 were pending. Claims 1, 6-8, 14, 19-21, 27, 32-33 and 40-44 are amended herein. Support for the amendments presented herein can be found in the specification as originally filed, at least from page 1, lines 7-12; page 17, lines 1-16; page 18, line 18 to page 20, line 13; page 21, line 11 page 22, line 10; page 25, line 4- page 29, line 12; and page 44, line 7 – page 48, line 2. Claim 45 is added. No new matter is introduced. Through these changes, claims 1, 4, 6-14, 17, 19-27, 30-34 and 36-45 remain pending. This Reply encompasses a bona fide attempt to overcome the rejections raised by the Examiner and place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4, 6-14, 17, 19-27, 30-34, and 36-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,236,971 ("Stefik") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0078377 ("Chang"). The rejection is traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method of sharing an object in a portal framework, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a first site, wherein the first site comprises a first collection of objects;
assigning a share privilege at the first site to a first user to allow the first user to share a first object from the first collection of objects with another site;
storing a reference to the object in a first repository in the portal framework, wherein the first repository is associated with or available to the first site on the portal framework, wherein the first repository resides on a machine comprising a processor and a data store in the portal framework, and wherein the reference to the object contains information for accessing the object;
providing a second site, wherein the second site comprises a second collection of objects stored in a second repository;
assigning a second privilege at the second site to a second user, wherein the second privilege allows the second user to access objects in the second repository;
performing a first operation to store a duplicate of the reference to the object in a the second repository associated with or available to the second site

on the portal framework based on the first privilege, wherein the second repository resides on a machine comprising a processor and a data store; and allowing the second user to view the duplicate of the reference to the object based on the second privilege; wherein, via the duplicate of the reference stored in the second repository, the object becomes available to the second site for reuse by the second site on the portal framework; and wherein the first operation is in accordance with the share privilege; and wherein the first and second privilege are granted independent of the reference to the object, the duplicate of the reference of the object and the object.

Embodiments disclosed by Applicant enable an object to be directly or indirectly shared between a first repository and a second repository. A repository framework may be implemented to perform a sharing type of administration. Such a sharing type of administration makes an object available for reuse by a site, either directly or indirectly, by storing duplicates of a reference to the object in one or more repositories. A user of a first site may store a duplicate of a reference to an object at a repository of a second site based on a privilege defined at the first site. A user at the second site may see the object based on a privilege at the second site that allows the user of the second site access to the object.

Thus, for example, an administrator of a first site may create an object (say a web site menu) and based on the administrator privileges at the first site may store a duplicate of a reference to the object in a repository for a second site. A user at the second site (say an administrator of the second site) may now see the object of the first site based on a privilege assigned to that administrator at the second site. Consequently, the administrator of the second site can provide, for example, the menu as part of the second site. The ability to share objects from a first site is based on privileges defined at the first site for users (e.g., administrators) and the ability to see the duplicate references of objects at the second site is based on privileges defined at the second site for users (e.g., administrators) of the second site. These privileges to share and view objects are granted to the user's at the web site independent of the object.

In the rejection, the Examiner states that Stefik teaches a method for sharing an object in a portal framework, and equates a digital ticket with a reference to an object. Stefik describes a digital ticket as something that entitles the ticket holder to exercise some usage right with respect to a digital work. Digital works are stored in a first repository (e.g., Repository 1). When a second repository ("Repository 2") wants to access the digital work (e.g., to print the digital work or obtain a copy of the digital work), Repository 2 requests access from

Repository 1. Repository 1 then checks the usage rights associated with the digital work to determine if access to the digital work can be granted. Stefik particularly states that “[t]he check of the usage rights essentially involves a determination of whether a right associated with the access request has been attached to the digital work and if all the conditions associated with the right are satisfied.” See, Stefik, Col. 7, lines 14-46.

It is clear in Stefik that usage rights are not granted to users independent of the digital work or the digital tickets: “a key feature of the present invention is that usage rights are permanently ‘attached’ to the digital work.” Col. 6, lines 60-61. In the digital ticket scheme of Stefik, the ability to take a particular action relative to a digital work is based on the digital ticket. A user of the second repository is not assigned a privilege at the second repository with respect to a copy of the digital work independent of the digital ticket and usage rights of the digital work.

In the rejection, the Examiner relied on Chang to teach an object being a software object. Applicant respectfully submits that this interpretation of Chang fails to remedy the shortcomings of Stefik.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Stefik and Chang, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest embodiments disclosed and claimed by Applicant. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claim 45

New Claim 45 recites that the shared object is “a style object providing code that controls display of elements of a web site.” See *e.g.*, p. 53-54. Thus, objects can be shared between web sites (through duplication of references to the object) so that elements of multiple web sites are displayed in a similar manner. Thus, two web sites in a framework can have a similar look and feel because headers, footers, navigation controls, tabs and other elements are displayed in a similar manner according to the object shared from the first web site. Stefik does not describe sharing of style objects that provide code to control display of elements of a web site so that, for example, different web sites share a common look and feel.

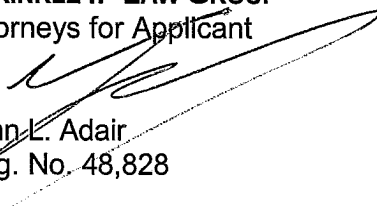
Conclusion

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1, 4, 6-14, 17, 19-27, 30-34 and 36-45. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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